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HOPE SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES MAY 1
STUDENTS URGED TO USE ONLINE APPLICATION

Nashville, Tenn. — With just 20 days until the May 1 HOPE Scholarship priority deadline, officials are encouraging students to apply online as soon as possible. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the official application for HOPE, is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Dr. Myron Oglesby-Pitts, director of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program, said, "There's still time to take advantage of Tennessee Scholar Dollars and the HOPE Scholarship. The online FAFSA takes just one to two weeks to process and can cut out delays by eliminating mistakes."

Hard-copy applications, available from high school counselors, college financial aid offices, and the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC), can take up to six weeks to process.

HOPE scholars must have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average or score at least 19 on the ACT. Scholars are eligible for assistance of up to \$3,000 annually, or \$4,000 if they meet standards of academic achievement or financial need.

An estimated 65,000 students are expected to attend Tennessee colleges and universities on lottery-funded scholarships and grants next fall. Roughly three-quarters of those — 49,000 — are expected to be HOPE scholars. The remaining 16,000 will receive technical skills grants to attend state technology centers.

Dr. Oglesby-Pitts said, "Tennessee Scholar Dollars and HOPE are helping make higher education affordable for thousands of Tennessee's best and brightest. If you've got the grades, there's money available to help pay for college. Now, all you have to do is apply."

For more information about Tennessee Scholar Dollars and the HOPE Scholarship, visit www.TNScholarDollars.com, or call the HOPE Hotline at (615) 741-1346 or (800) 342-1663.

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